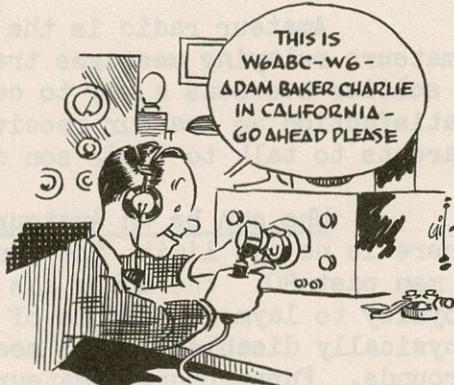


AMATEUR RADIO

What is It?

What is it? Amateur radio is a world-wide activity. There are over 100,000 licensed operators in the U.S.A. Amateur communication includes the transmission and reception of messages in this country, in addition to contact with DX (distant) points, experimenting with electronics and plain rag chewing. Amateur Radio is the only hobby dignified by requiring government licenses. Federal Communications Commission licenses permit the holders to operate on assigned frequencies. The call letters show the country by their prefix and general location within a country by the numeral, which is followed by letters identifying the operator. For example, the call letters WLAW; the W means United States, the numeral 1 indicates a New England State (in this instance Connecticut), and the letters AW being the operator identification. Although most amateur stations are located at home, it is permissible to have a station in your automobile, plane or boat.



Is it enjoyable? A high sense of accomplishment can result in amateur radio from mastering the operational and technical points involved. It is a personal as well as technical accomplishment to complete a radio communication circuit; a friend may be found with different equipment but common problems disclosed in the brief exchanges of intelligence by radio. Through the key or "mike" contacts can be achieved with stations all over the nation -- and even all over the world. Building transmitters and receivers possesses fascination for some. Many go beyond the pleasure of casual conversations on the air to organize and test amateur circuits to serve in natural disasters or civil defense -- or to aid in maintaining a national traffic system for interchange of messages voluntarily handled on a non-guaranteed basis in the U.S.A. and Canada. Through the friendships formed and the fraternity of amateur radio, the amateur finds the latch string out in meeting kindred souls wherever he travels.

Is it Useful? Amateur radio may in time of emergency be the only means of early communication from a stricken area. It has a long history of having served in times of flood, hurricane, and disaster. Amateurs appoint their own organizers and representatives locally to keep close liaison with the Red Cross, the police and government agencies, co-ordinating their efforts also, with other communicators for time of emergency. Practice drills and network interconnections voluntarily kept insure that the amateur will be ready when disaster strikes. Trains have been dispatched, crews directed for restoration of commercial service, calls sent for help and medical aid, and tests looking to civil defense need are currently held, all in the tradition of public service rendered by the Radio Amateur.



Amateur radio is recognized as the highest type of self-training in radio techniques. The executives, as well as technicians, throughout the electronic

industry today are largely persons who derived practical benefits from their early amateur radio work. During the war, key spots in communications (operation, training, design, repair, etc.) involved thousands and thousands of amateurs who were ready and able to utilize their amateur radio experience and know-how to serve the nation.

Amateur radio is the voice of home to many a traveler in far-off places. Amateurs relaying messages transferred from military circuits have furnished many a soldier overseas a way to communicate with friends and relatives. The sense of satisfaction an amateur receives in instances where special arrangements permit parents to talk to their son overseas cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

Who can be an Amateur? Any American citizen may become an amateur. There is no age limit, the youngest amateur was a girl 7 years old and the oldest a man past 80. The hobby has in its ranks people of every walk of life, from royalty to laymen. People of every race and creed hold amateur licenses. Those physically disabled or ill meet and converse with others on fully democratic grounds. Furthermore, amateur radio need not be unduly expensive. A complete station built for less than fifty dollars can work the farthest corners of the world. Personal knowledge and skill in manipulation can assist DX and make it possible to get good communication results with high efficiency. But an ample supply of manufactured equipment is available to assist the experimenter.

How do I learn how to become an Amateur? The American Radio Relay League is a non-commercial association of radio amateurs, bonded for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation. "Of, by and for the amateur," it numbers within its ranks practically every worth-while amateur in the nation and has a history of glorious achievement as the standard bearer in radio amateur affairs.

One of the functions of the League is the publication of technical information for the amateur and along these lines the League also publishes booklets for the newcomer. "Learning the Radio Telegraph Code," "The Amateur License Manual" and "How to Become a Radio Amateur" are of particular interest to the Novice. "How to Become a Radio Amateur" which sells for 50 cents is an ideal booklet for the newcomer and can be obtained from your local radio dealer or by writing to the American Radio Relay League, West Hartford, Conn.